

February 16, 2009

TO: Senator Kelly Gebhardt and members of the Natural Resources Committee

TESIMONY ON SJ 21, Joint resolution on forest Service study area

Pledge vote "Yes"

The Galton project is a continuation of the ongoing governmental practices conducted over 20 years of ongoing forest management devoid of an officially established and approved plan with public input and approval. The results have led far from the mission and goals originally established in the Organic Act of 1997 through which these lands had been set aside as forest reserves for public use. Provisions of this Act were to improve and protect the forest with the purpose of securing favorable water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens.

Ever since the founding of the Wildland Project, a dream introduced by Dave Foreman, precipitated changed management policies which have been closing down human access, use and enjoyment of these lands. As a result hazardous fuels have built up in forests resulting in massive destructive wildfires, burning of thousands of acres of timber including old growth, treasured wildlife and endangered species, lost watersheds and soil quality, and unhealthy air and water pollution.

The over 10-year march toward ever more wilderness has been on-going since the original Wildlands bill HR 488 was introduced in 1999 followed by numerous more similar bills, rulings and policies. Piece by piece, bit by bit, here and there in various forms these all have led to ever more wilderness and/or non-use of land. Just this week the Northern Rockies Ecosystem bill was again reintroduced under Congressional bill number, HR 980. It would put an additional 26 million acres in five Northwestern states into wilderness.

The Kootenai Forest Service continued this trend with their proposed Galton Project for the Winton Weydemeyer area of 171 acres which, by their own mapping, indicated this had for many years been planned as Wilderness. As indicated on the attached maps this is only a portion of the far bigger plan, with little or no exposure to the general public. Eventually wilderness (or park) would extend all along the western border of Glacier National Park down to Whitefish Mountain (formerly Big Mountain ski area) five miles from Whitefish and then east to Columbia Falls.

Planners envision this area to become a new national park already named Flathead National Park. Some 200 private property owners along the North Fork of Flathead River would then basically become in-holders. The unofficial "Northern Rockies Ecosystem (NREPA) map of two years ago, produced by these same groups, includes this new national park as well as one in Oregon/Idaho of about 500,000 acres.

These extreme special interest groups promoting this extensive governmental land acquisition are funded by international foundations and other sources that do not

represent the majority of Montana residents. They are influencing the agencies within the federal government such as the U.S. Forest Service, the Fish Wildlife and Parks and Bureau of Land Management to acquire ever more land and to manage it in a manner not beneficial to either the general public or to the land itself, basically that of management by neglect. Our government simply cannot afford proper management of all this land mass as exemplified by the Hands-off, Let Burn policies now being applied. Taxpayers simply cannot afford fighting these fires or the restoration following. The forests actually could finance their own fire prevention and forest health maintenance if they were allowed to do so through productive utilization of the materials which are now burning. If is restrictive forest policy which is prevents this from happening.

Included in this movement have been severe restrictions on adjoining privately owned properties as well as the establishment of wildlife corridors designed to connect federal land masses. Clearly shown on attached maps is the preponderance of government owned lands in the West due to the higher percentages of Eastern Congressmen elected officials. As we increasingly lose our already scarce private land to government we lose our tax base, our natural resources and our economy. The custom and culture of our citizens is being destroyed and our quality of life eroding. The area is becoming the playground of the nation and ultimately of the world, but revenues thus derived are far short of that needed to maintain the quality of life needed for our people. The citizens of the western states must realize how and why our way our live is being threatened.

Montana residents must be allowed greater influence and control over their own public lands utilizing the expertise of those with knowledge and experience in proper land management. We must take every precaution possible to protect what is left of the private property, the foundation of a prosperous secure future while benefiting from the resources that had been granted us by the federal government. If done properly these forests and its wildlife will also benefit by assuring healthy, bug-free, fire free conditions.

I highly recommend a "yes" vote on Senator Aubyn Curtiss's SJ 21 joint resolution on forest service study area for the Galton area. It will provide the guidelines and procedures to restore and preserve a healthy forest. Hopefully this can become a model for improved Forest management throughout our country.

Respectfully submitted by


Clarice Ryan

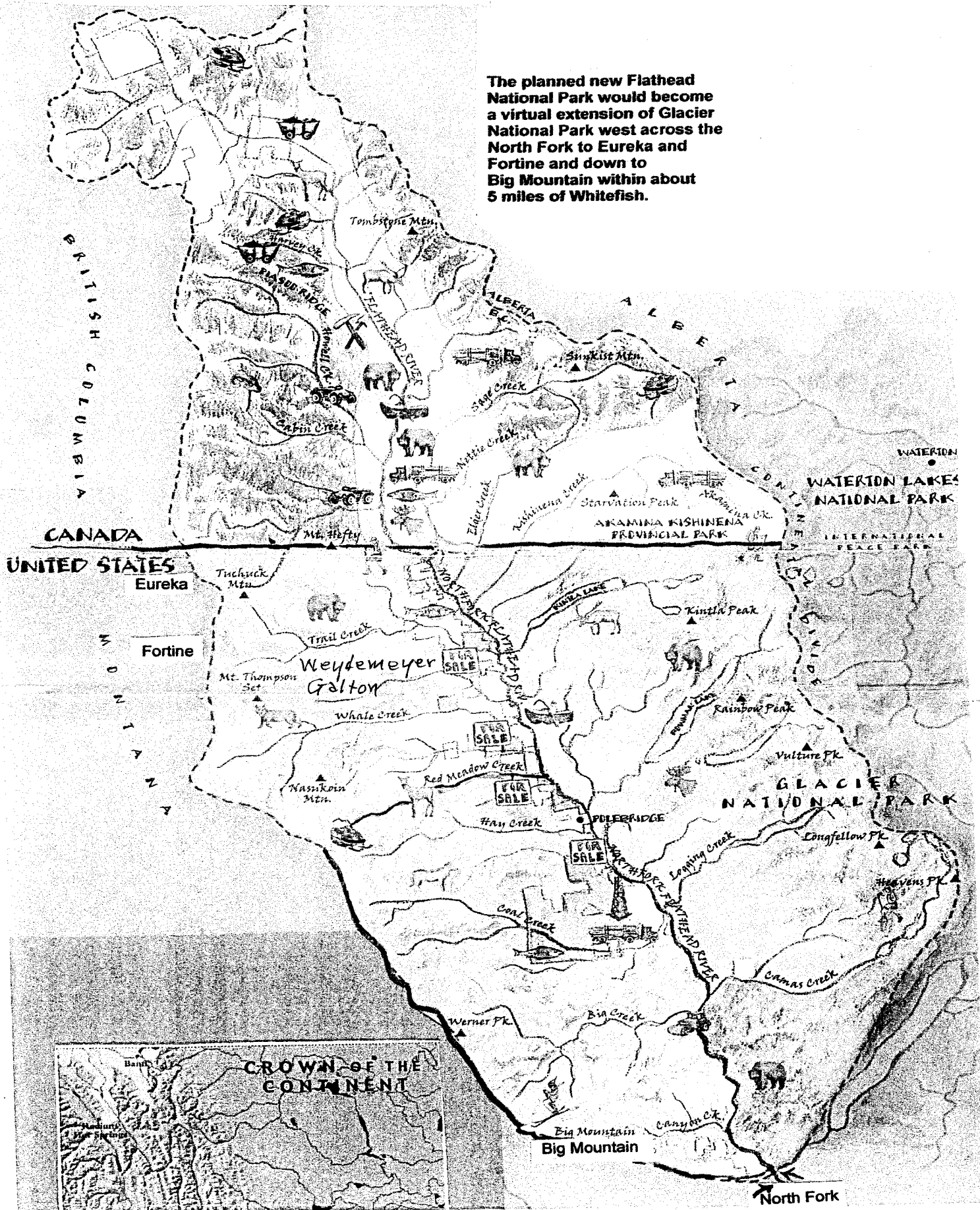
253 Pine Needle Lane
Bigfork, MT 59911
406/837-6929

Transboundary Flathead

JEWEL IN THE CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

CROWN OF THE CONTINENT

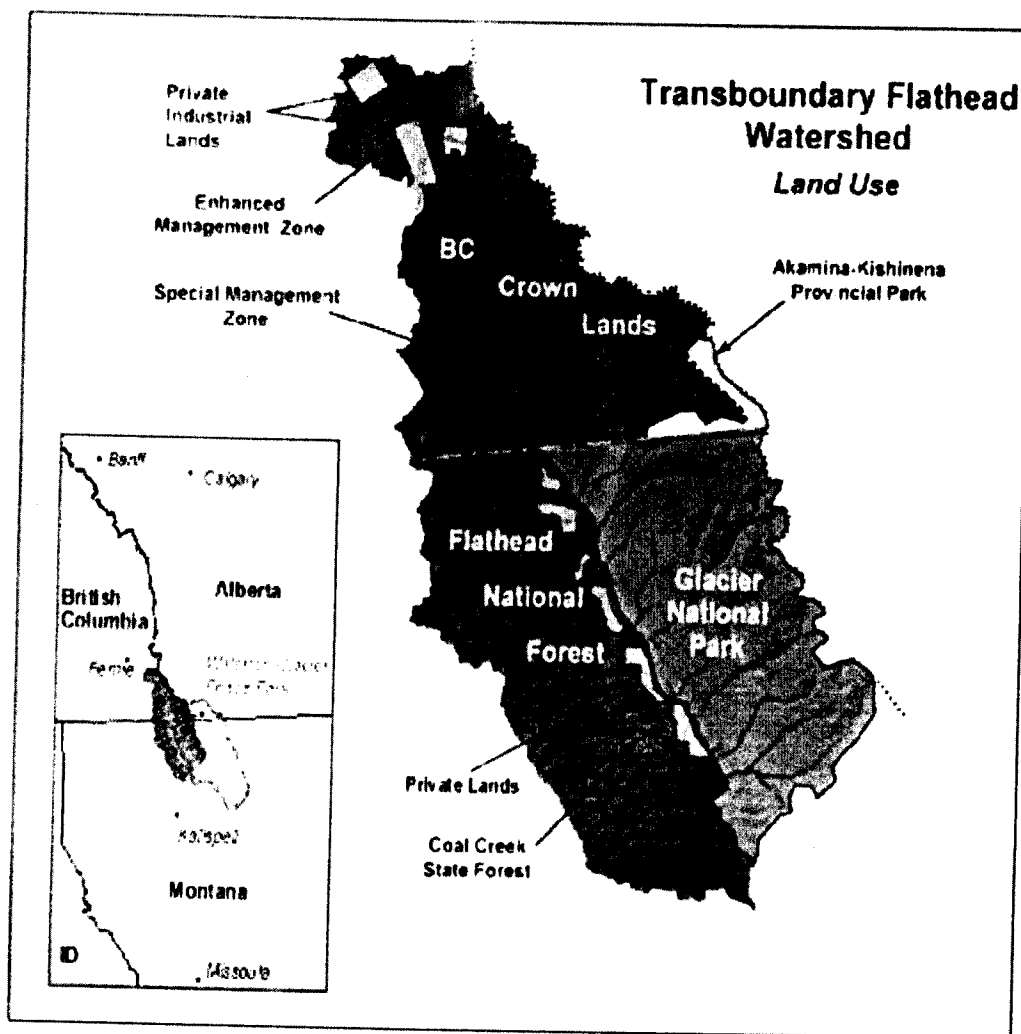
The planned new Flathead National Park would become a virtual extension of Glacier National Park west across the North Fork to Eureka and Fortine and down to Big Mountain within about 5 miles of Whitefish.



The Flathead Valley

Letter
Parks Canada
Petition

SAY "NO" TO THE FLATHEAD NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL!



The Flathead National Park proposal is moving ahead at an accelerated pace, fuelled by lobbies from US and Canadian Environmental groups that are striving to create the Yellowstone to Yukon corridor.

National Parks and National Historic Sites of Canada has been meeting with (some) stakeholders regarding the proposed extension to Waterton National Park. The park was proposed by CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society), a group opposed to resource extraction, hunting, and motorized recreation.

There is talk of compensating Tembec for loss of forestry, and others for mineral rights if / when the park is established, but that cash would go straight to Tembec's head office down East leaving not a penny in this region. Those

10's of millions could easily be put to better use on infrastructure programs such as high-speed internet for rural areas and keeping hospitals open.

Parks Canada and CPAWS are claiming they have the support of the BC Provincial Government, First Nations, and area residents. Bill Bennett, MLA East Kootenay has said "My view of the CPAWS proposal is quite simple: if there is clear majority of East Kootenay residents who want, or do not want, this national park, my job will be to represent that view. I believe our government will not support this park if there a strong majority in the region against its creation."

It is time once again to communicate our views to the BC Government to help them understand how we, the people who live here, feel about this and all other closures. We also need to "tune-in" our federal MP, Jim Abbot, and the folks at Parks Canada. Note also that our federal Liberal senator has written letters in support of this new park.

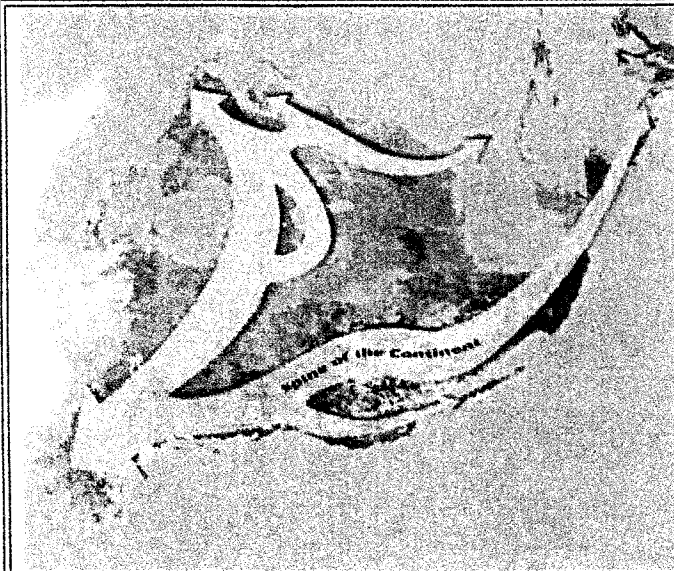
Please consider circulating the Sparwood Fish and Wildlife's petition.

Please send a letter opposing the park. For names and addresses of MPs and MLAs please see



Red - Clinton Takings
 Red Striped - Clinton - Babbitt Proposed
 Green - Federal Owned-Managed
 Mountain Pictures - Forest Service

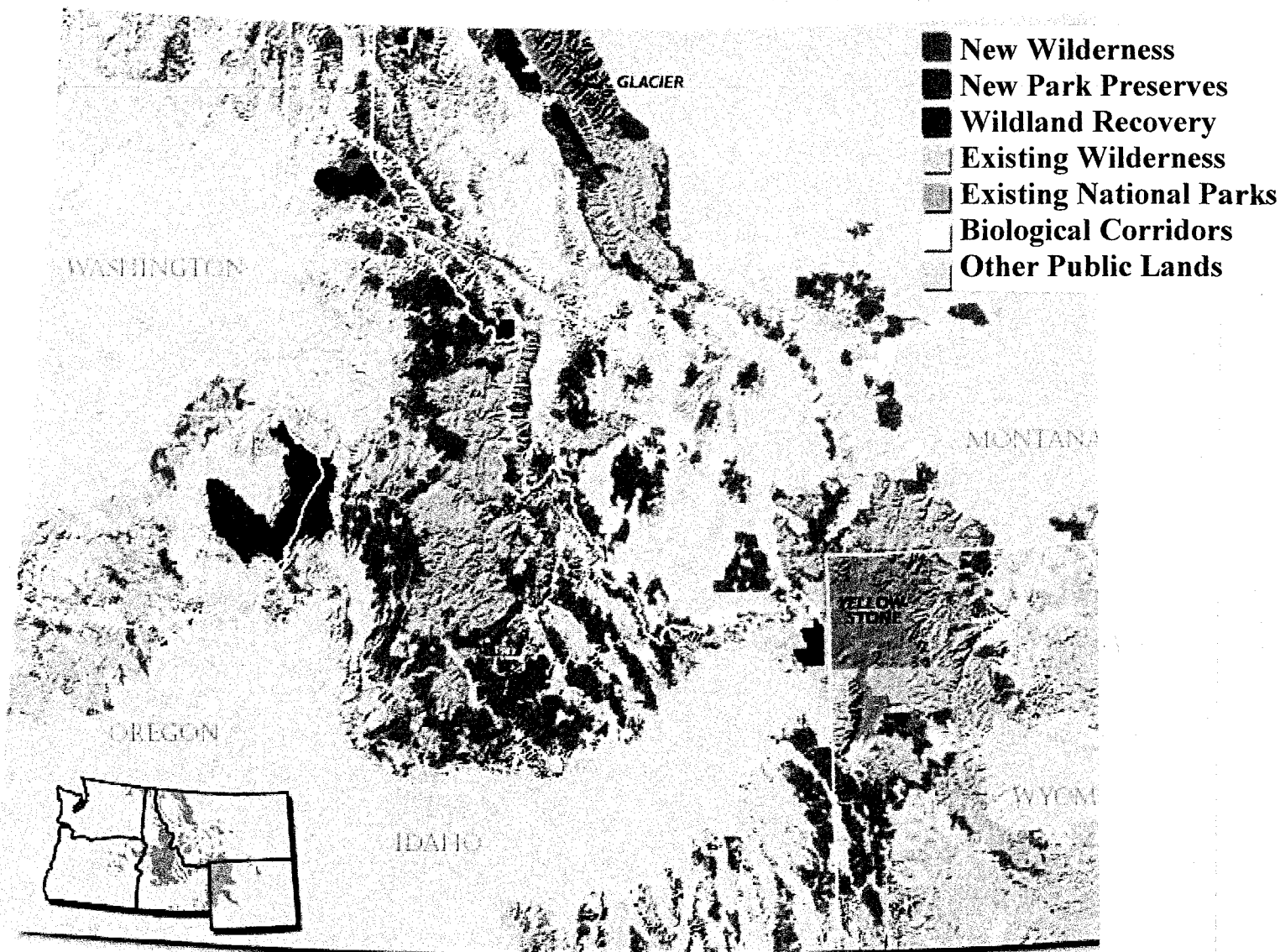
http://www.propertyrightsresearch.org/images/land_grab_map.jpg 2006



Map from www.wildlandproject.org

"The Wildlands Project's work to reconnect the continent begins with "MegaLinkages"—vast pathways that tie natural places together. Each MegaLinkage is made up of regional "Wildlands Networks." Within the Spine of the Continent MegaLinkage, six Wildlands Networks have been proposed, and within these networks, the Wildlands Project has launched a campaign to protect "Endangered Linkages"—the critical connection within each network that is most threatened." Room to Roam - "Saving Wildlife Linkages along the Spine of the Continent"

The Northern Rockies Ecosystem

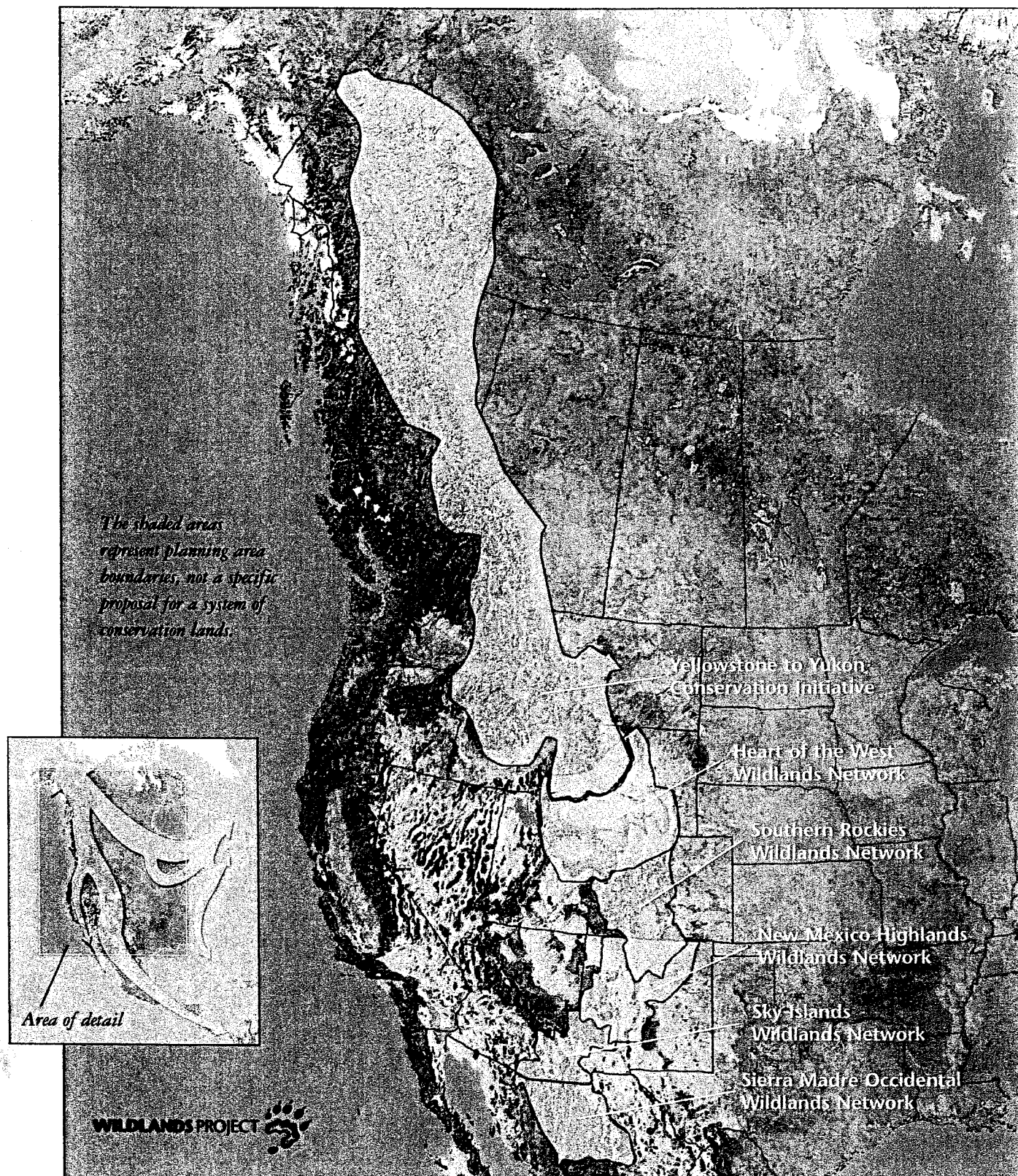


Breakdown of New Wilderness and Corridors TOTAL ACRES: Over 23 million

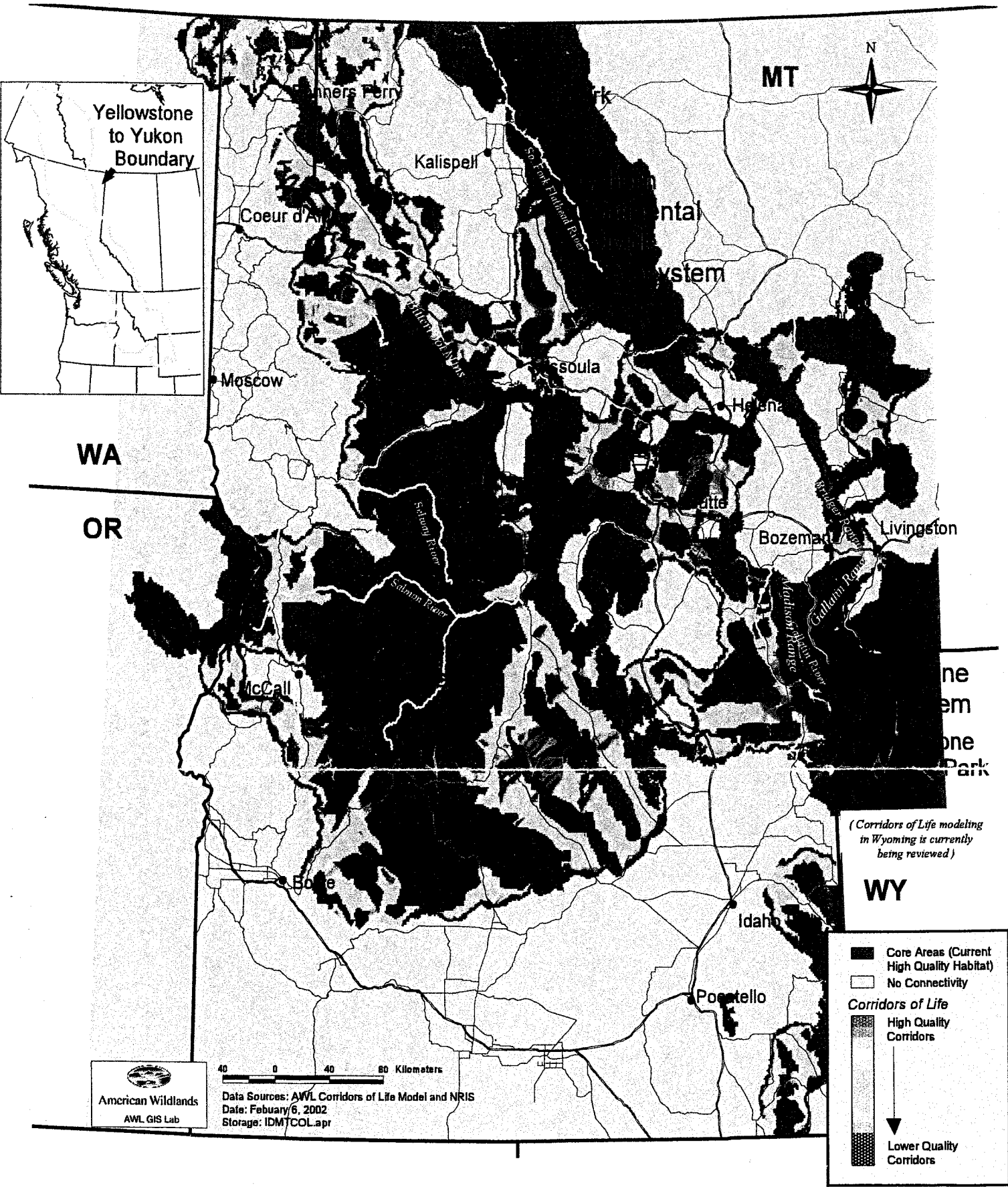
State	Acres
MONTANA	8,255,918
BLM, Beaverhead, Bitterroot, Custer, Deerlodge, Flathead, Gallatin, Helena, Kootenai & Klaniksu, Lewis & Clark, Lolo	
IDAHO	9,799,915
BLM, Boise, Caribou, Challis, Clearwater, Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce, Payette, Salmon, Sawtooth, Targhee	
WYOMING	3,265,568
BLM, Bighorn, Bridger-Teton, Shoshone	
OREGON	1,086,450
BLM, Malheur, Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman	
WASHINGTON	754,769
Colville	

Wildlands Conservation Planning

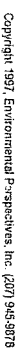
Along the Spine of the Continent



Corridors of Life: Evaluating Connectivity in the Northern Rockies



As Mandated by the Convention on Biological Diversity, The Wetlands Project, UN and U.S. Man and Biosphere Program, and Various UN, US Heritage Programs, and NAFTA



EXPLANATION OF THE BIODIVERSITY TREATY AND THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

This map is based on the strategy and procedures laid out in what is known as the *Wildlands Project* and the UN/US *Man and the Biosphere Program* (MAB). Both are based on the need of protecting biological diversity using core wilderness reserves which are surrounded by buffer zones that variably regulate human activity to protect the attributes of the core reserves (see below). Areas not included in core reserves or buffer zones are *zones of cooperation* where regulations are designed to favor biodiversity and ecosystems.

The Statutory Framework of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves, The Seville Agreement for the MAB Program, and the Strategic Plan for the USMAB all state the MAB Program is designed to help implement the *Convention on Biological Diversity*, a treaty currently before the US Senate for ratification. Likewise, Section 13.4.2.2.3 of the United Nations Global Biodiversity Assessment defines the Wildlands Project as the basis for preserving biodiversity for the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. The Wildlands Project is based on the science of *conservation biology* and was developed by Dr. Michael Soulé, co-founder and first president of the *Society for Conservation Biology*; Dr. Reed Noss, current editor for the journal of *Conservation Biology*; and David Foreman, co-founder and long-time leader of *Earth First!*

The science of conservation biology was largely created by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature). The IUCN is an accredited UN advisor and is comprised of government agencies and NGOs (non-governmental organizations). These include the EPA, US Forest Service, US National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, The Nature Conservancy, Society for Conservation Biology, and many others. The IUCN is also one of the primary promoters and developers of the *Convention on Biological Diversity*. This perhaps explains why the US Government and environmental organizations appear to be working in concert to implement the Wildlands Project and Biodiversity Treaty even though the treaty has not been ratified.

This map is drawn under the supervision of a Ph.D. in Ecology, and follows instructions provided by the Wildlands Project, the UN/US MAB, and the rapidly increasing control within US counties through the UN/US Heritage programs. This is especially true for counties having federal land, particularly in the Western US. The map incorporates, when available, actual maps as well as a multitude of government and environmental literature demanding various reserves or national parks interconnected with corridors.

MAGNITUDE OF THE WILDLANDS PROJECT

"Conservation must be practiced on a truly grand scale," claims Reed Noss. And grand it is. Taken from the article "The Wildlands Project: Land Conservation Strategy" in the 1992 special issue of *Wild Earth*, Noss provides the whopping dimensions of this effort.

Core reserves are wilderness areas that supposedly allow biodiversity to flourish. "It is estimated," claims Noss, "that large carnivores and ungulates require reserves on the scale of **2.5 to 25 million acres**. . . . For a minimum viable population of 1000 [large mammals], the figures would be **242 million acres for grizzly bears, 200 million acres for wolverines, and 100 million acres for wolves**. Core reserves should be managed as roadless areas (wilderness). All roads should be permanently closed."

Corridors are "extensions of reserves. . . . Multiple corridors interconnecting a network of core reserves provide functional redundancy and mitigate against disturbance. . . . Corridors several miles wide are needed if the objective is to maintain resident populations of large carnivores."

Buffer zones should have two or more zones "so that a gradation of use intensity exists from the core reserve to the developed

landscape. Inner zones should have low road density (no more than 0.5 mile/square mile) and low-intensity use such as. . . hiking, cross-country skiing, birding, primitive camping, wilderness hunting and fishing, and low-intensity silviculture (light selective cutting)."

WHAT DO RESERVES AND CORRIDORS REALLY MEAN?

While this effort has a noble mission, the implications are staggering. As noted in the June 25, 1993 issue of *Science*, it "is *nothing less than the transformation of America to an archipelago of human-inhabited islands surrounded by natural areas*."

According to the Wildlands Project, "**One half of the land area of the 48 conterminous [united] states be encompassed in core [wilderness] reserves and inner corridor zones (essentially extensions of core reserves) within the next few decades.... Half of a region in wilderness** is a reasonable guess of what it will take to restore viable populations of large carnivores and natural disturbance regimes, **assuming that most of the other 50 percent is managed intelligently as buffer zone**." (Noss, 1992) If fully implemented, the *Convention on Biological Diversity* would have to **displace millions of people** through unacceptable regulations, nationalization of private land, and forcing people to move out of core reserve areas and inner buffer zones. It would seriously reduce the production of agriculture, forest, and mining products. In the process, millions of Americans could lose their jobs. In turn, the resulting scarce resources means the rest of us are going to pay double and triple for these products.

This may sound insane, but it's either being planned or implemented right now across America. Land is being condemned or zoned in reserves, corridors or buffer zones under a variety of names to reestablish or protect biodiversity and/or specific species. Should these quasi-religious theories and pseudo-science determine our future?

RESERVES & CORRIDORS DO NOT WORK

What science is really showing is that there is no clear evidence that reserves and corridors work or are even needed. Rather, good forest management, including the use of clearcutting, enhances biodiversity and sustainability:

- "The theory has *not* been properly validated and the practical value of biogeographic principles for conservation remains unknown. . . . The theory *provides no special insights* relevant to conservation." Zimmerman, B.L. and R.O. Bierregaard. 1986. *Journal of Biogeography* 13:133-143.
- The theory behind the need for reserves and corridors is being "increasingly heavily criticized. . . as inapplicable to most of nature, largely because *local population extinction was not demonstrated*." Simberloff, D. J. Farr, J. Cox, and D. Mehlman. 1992. "Movement Corridors: Conservation Bargains or Poor Investment?" *Conservation Biology* 6(4):495.
- "**No** unified theory combines genetic, demographic, and other forces threatening small populations, **nor** is their accord on the relative importance of these threats." *ibid*.
- "There are still few data, and many widely cited reports are **unconvincing**. . . . [The theory that reserves and corridors] *facilitate movement is now almost an article of faith*." *ibid*.
- "Studies that have been frequently cited as illustrating corridor use for faunal movement, **do not**, in fact, provide clear evidence." Of those that do support the need for corridors, wooded fence rows are adequate for many species, while only a few require well vegetated strips. Hobbs, R.J. 1992. "The Role of Corridors in Conservation: Solution or Bandwagon?" *Tree* 7(11):389.

The science used in the *Convention on Biological Diversity* does not work and may actually reduce biodiversity. The implications of this treaty are enormous and must be thoroughly reviewed before it is considered for ratification.